

March 14, 2012

Judiciary Committee

Thankyou for giving us a chance to talk in favor of Senate Bill 334.

On October 14, 2009 we were devastated finding our brother Mitchell's grave stone removed and a new one put in its place. No one would help us so we wrote to State Representative Tom Kehoe and asked to toughen up state statute 46A-58. Mr. Kehoe replied it is good as in talk to Police Chief Thomas Sweeney. We did.

First thing he explained our statute of limitations had run out. Second he said we didn't own the plot at the time of destruction and could not prosecute. It seems strange to us that someone can destroy a gravestone, admit and go free because of statute of limitations. We feel that everyone including the operator and movement man were in on it. The movement man kept the bronze plaque for over a year. Chief Sweeney said he was staying it. He must have thought we were stupid. The Chief agreed to send us a police report, we received it the next day.

In 1980 my wife's brother Mitchell lost his wife of 34 years and buried her in Buckingham Cemetery, Hattisburg. With deep love for his wife he wanted to do something special for her. He got a piece of granite stone from the foundation of the
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Strickland quarry up on the mountain, had it shaped by Tower Hill Granite Co. and put a bronze plaque he obtained from Rose Hill, Rocky Hill, Ct. on it. He and his brother mixed cement and mounted the stone in the cemetery. Others assisted on this project.

Several years later Mitchell remarried and moved to Hampton, Ct. His new wife had two daughters. Mitchell and his first wife had no children.

Mitchell's youngest step daughter had a baby and lost her husband in an accident. The baby came to Hampton for the grand parents to help raise.

Twelve years later Mitchell's second wife died and was buried in Rose Hill, Rocky Hill Ct.

Mitchell could not make up his mind where to be buried, he wanted to be with his first wife Barbara, but also wanted his granddaughter Lisa to have her grandmother and grandfather together. In the end he chose Rose Hill.

He passed away December 15, 2007 and at the reading of the will in January 2008 we tried to purchase the cemetery plot. The fiduciary said she had no deed. We tried contacting her through the year with no luck. Finally in April 2009 we petitioned the Probate Court for a hearing to purchase the cemetery plot. The fiduciary would not cooperate, even after the judge spoke to her.

On October 14, 2007 we went to Beekingham Cemetery to put a flower in my wife's sister's grave. She married Barbara's brother. We could not believe our eyes, we were shocked and devastated. The beautiful stone Mitchell had made was gone and a new stone in its place. The new stone almost removed the Possessors name completely and removed that Barbara was a wife and married.

We called the Cemetery Association and family members on both sides. No one knew anything so we called the Glantonbury Police.

Officer Steven Gray showed up, said he knew the sexton and went to the cemetery. He came back and said what's your problem, you have a new stone? He said changing stones was not a crime. We told him we had an anonymous tip as to who may have done it.

Officer Gray called the person, she admitted doing the crime and gave him the name of the movement company in Manchester. She said she felt the plot was abandoned, said derogatory things about Mitchell and got no permission for destroying the stone.

My wife explained to Officer Gray that the estate was in probate at the time. The fiduciary Barbara Matasa refused to prosecute. My wife documented everything, each time something happened.

We tried writing a letter to the Attorney General. He said we had to go to court and sue.

Answer over generalists. All he did was send us a letter from the Beekingham Cemetery Association attorney.

The Hartford Council would not return our calls.

The Glastonbury Citizen said on July 15, 2010 that they would write an article. After a five hour interview, no article.

We need someone to help us organize and get a statute that will protect people in graves in cemeteries no matter what the situation is.

Again we say, there should be a simple statute that reads. No one can destroy or desecrate in any way any grave in any cemetery regardless of ownership

Thank you

Robert P. Armando

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Armando
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This monument was hand crafted by Mitchell Posuniak, his family & friends and put on his wife Barbara's grave spring 1980

The stone came from foundation of old Buckingham Church. The granite came from Stickland Quarry on Buckingham mountain.



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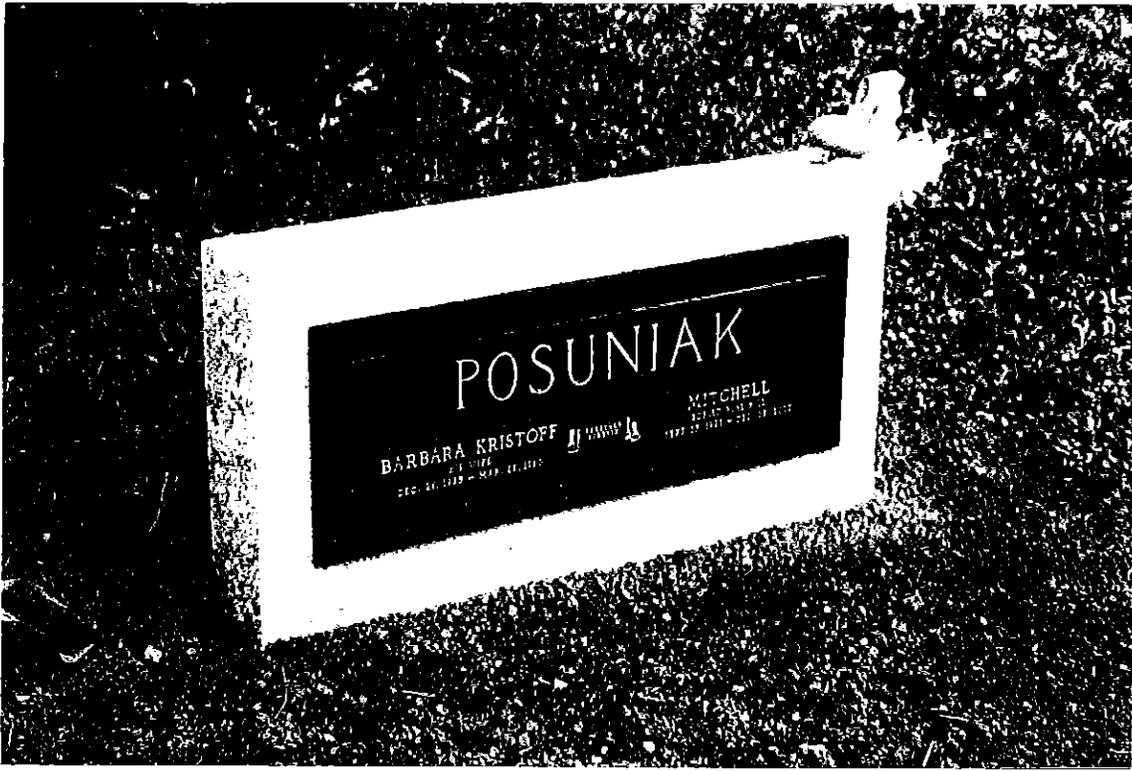


This new stone was put in grave Sept. 2008
Notice no mention of wife, maiden name highlighted
and no mention of Mitchell.
Suggests a hate crime.



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Replacement stone put on grave 12-24-10



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